

2006 ELECTION

I SCHOOL BOARD 4TH DEPT/CENTRAL (1)



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Public schools in Hawaii are currently being challenged with the demands of Act 51 and other federal mandates, a complex system of Student-Weighted Formula, outdated and insufficient resources, and a shrinking pool of qualified educators. Most importantly, they struggle with students who don't seem to be achieving to their potential.

At the same time, our students continue to win high honors in many endeavors, get into excellent colleges and universities, and become positive contributors to society. Much can be attributed to our fine educators, wonderful parent and community supporters, and student resilience and desire to succeed.

How might we continue to support our students and improve the system that serves them? How do we keep our wonderful attributes while dumping or totally revamping that which is not working? How do we create the kind of physical, academic, and social environment that best supports our students?

Although there are no easy or simplistic answers, perhaps one way is to focus on the basics: A, B, and C. A is for high ACHIEVEMENT among all students, educators, and support personnel. B is for BALANCE. Besides a focus on reading and mathematics; physical education, music, the fine arts, and vocational skills need to be provided for a balanced curriculum. Finally, C is for COMMUNITY. We need to build a community that resolves differences wisely, works together amicably, and becomes a positive role model for our students. This might give us a start on providing the best public educational system in Hawaii.